# MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

# **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

MTA Gives Notice of Six Public Hearings
Regarding Proposed Express BusLink
Service and Changes to Existing
Local and Express Bus Services









# **June 2016 Service Change Proposals**

# **Notice of Public Hearings**

MTA gives notice of six public hearings to provide interested persons the opportunity to comment on proposed Express BusLink service and changes to existing Bus service that may become effective on or about June 19, 2016.

#### **Schedule of Public Hearings**

Monday, March 21, 2016 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm Towson Library, Towson Room 320 York Road Towson, MD 21204 Access via Nos. 3, 8, 11, 12, 48

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm Linthicum Community Library 400 Shipley Road Linthicum, MD 21090 Access via Linthicum Light Rail Stop

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm Woodlawn Library 1811 Woodlawn Drive Baltimore, MD 21207 Access via Nos. 44 and 57

Thursday, March 24, 2016 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm White Marsh Library 8133 Sandpiper Circle Baltimore, MD 21236 Access via Nos. 35, 58, and 120

Monday, March 28, 2016 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm Owings Mills Library, Room A 10302 Grand Central Avenue Owings Mills, MD 21117 Access via Nos. 56, 59, and Metro Subway

Tuesday, March 29, 2016 4:00 pm- 8:00 pm Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP 801 S. Caroline Street Baltimore, MD 21231 Access via Nos. 21 and 31

# **June 2016 Service Change Proposals**

#### Where to find complete details of the proposed transit service changes:

- 1. Full text detailing the proposed changes is available for public review in the lobby of the Wm. Donald Schaefer Building at 6 St. Paul Street in Baltimore.
- 2. Request a hard copy of the proposed changes by calling 410-454-5000.
- 3. Continue reading below.

Interested persons are invited to present their views at a public hearing. The MTA will continue to accept written statements until 5:00 PM on Friday, April 29, 2016.

Options to submit written comments:

- Mail comments to MTA, Office of Customer and Community Relations, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.
- 2. Email comments to <a href="mailto:HearingComments@mta.maryland.gov">HearingComments@mta.maryland.gov</a> with "Written Testimony" as the subject heading.
- 3. Submit to MTA staff at a public hearing.
- 4. Visit www.mta.maryland.gov/baltimorelink-hearings, to download and print a Comment Form.

Name and postal address must be included with comments to become part of the public hearing record.

#### For more information

Call MTA's Transit Information Contact Center Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM 410-539-5000 • 866-RIDE-MTA (866-743-3682) • TTY 410-539-3497

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MTA Office of Customer and Community Relations 410-767-3999 • 866-743-3682 • TTY 410-539-3497

# **Summary of Proposed Service Changes**

The first phase of implementation of the BaltimoreLink plan includes improvements to MTA Express Bus service. These improvements include the introduction of Express BusLink routes 102, 106, and 107; service changes to Express Bus No. 150 line; and service changes to Local Bus line Nos. 77 and 99. The proposed changes may become effective on June 19, 2016.

- New Express BusLink 102 to connect Towson and White Marsh, with stops at the Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson Town Center, North Plaza Mall and Fox Hall apartments.
- Add the Express BusLink 106 to connect Towson and the Owings Mills Metro Subway station with stops in Pikesville, Towson Town Center, Baltimore County Circuit Court, and Towson University.
- New Express BusLink 107 to connect the BWI Airport and BWI Rail Station to the Old Court
  Metro Subway station, with stops in the vicinity of Security Square Mall, Catonsville, Community
  College of Baltimore County (CCBC) Catonsville, and University of Maryland Baltimore County
  (UMBC).
- Improve service on Express Bus No. 150 line by extending every trip through downtown
  Baltimore to Harbor East and increasing the efficiency of the service by eliminating service to
  the Long Gate Park and Ride and along Edmondson Avenue between Ingleside Avenue and
  Rolling Road.
- Improve the efficiency of service on Local Bus No. 77 line by adding trips to peak service between Old Court Metro Subway Station and University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC).
- Eliminate Local Bus No. 99 line.

Express Bus line Nos. 103, 104, 105, 110, 115, 119, 120, 160, and 164 will remain unchanged.

# New Express BusLink 102: Towson to White Marsh

New express service connecting Towson and White Marsh, with stops at the Baltimore County Circuit Court, Towson Town Center, North Plaza Mall, and Fox Hall apartments.

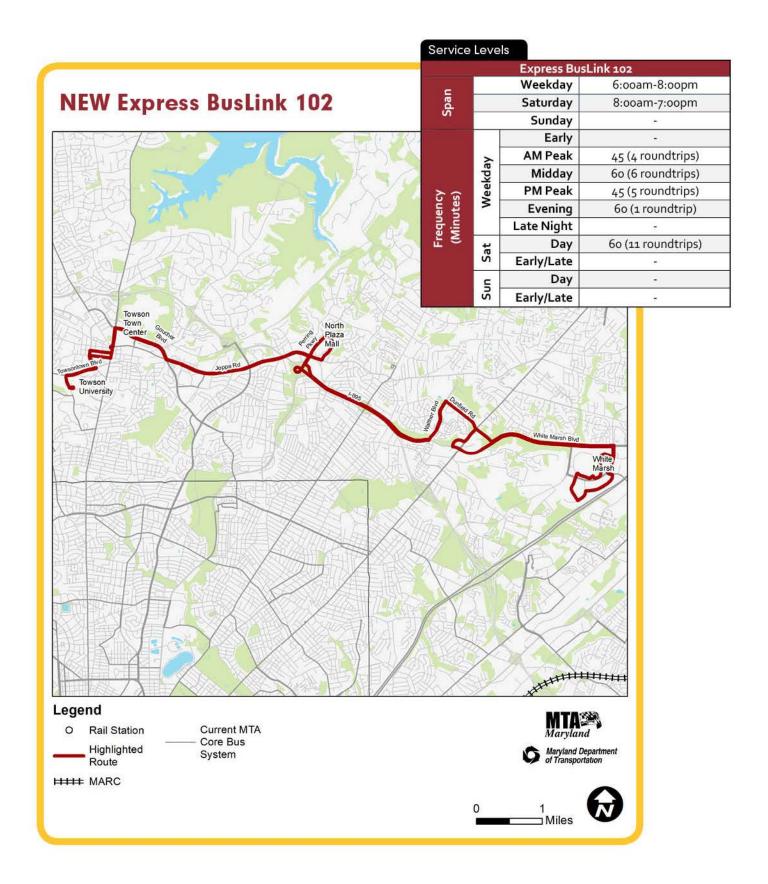
See map of Express BusLink 102 for details.

#### Justification

- This route will provide a new express connection between the White Marsh Mall/White Marsh
  Park and Ride and Towson Town Center, as well as new service to Fox Hall apartments, North
  Plaza Mall, and portions of Joppa Road.
- These areas have demonstrated a high transit demand. MTA received numerous requests for service during the Bus Network Improvement Project (BNIP) public outreach process. This route will reduce travel times between White Marsh and Towson from 70 minutes to 55 minutes.

#### **Route Alignment**

- Eastbound service (towards White Marsh)depart terminus at the Towson University Union Garage and travel north on Osler Drive, right on Towsontown Boulevard, left onto Bosley Avenue, right onto Chesapeake Avenue to serve Baltimore County Circuit House, left onto York Road and then onto Dulaney Valley Road to serve the Towson Town Center, then continue right onto Fairmount Avenue, left onto Joppa Road, left onto Perring Parkway, right onto Waltham Woods Road to serve North Plaza Mall, then back onto Joppa Road to Perring Parkway and then onto I-695 east. The route exits I-695 to travel east on White Marsh Boulevard, turn left onto Walther Boulevard and serve Fox Hall Apartments and then right onto Dunfield Road, right onto Belair Road, take the ramp to White Marsh Boulevard, left onto White Marsh Boulevard and right onto Honeygo Boulevard to serve the White Marsh Park and Ride, then loop around the White Marsh Mall on Honeygo Boulevard, turn left onto Sandpiper Circle, left onto Corporate Drive, right onto Town Center Drive, left onto Campbell Boulevard, and then return to Honeygo Boulevard to the terminus.
- Westbound service will operate similar to the eastbound service in reverse, with the exception
  of two short segments: 1) Exit White Marsh Boulevard directly onto Dunfield Road and, 2) Travel
  via Pennsylvania Avenue in Towson to serve the Baltimore County Circuit Court.



## New Express BusLink 106: Owings Mills Metro Subway Station to Towson

New express service will connect the Owings Mills Metro Subway station and Towson with stops in Pikesville, Towson Town Center, Baltimore County Circuit Court, and Towson University.

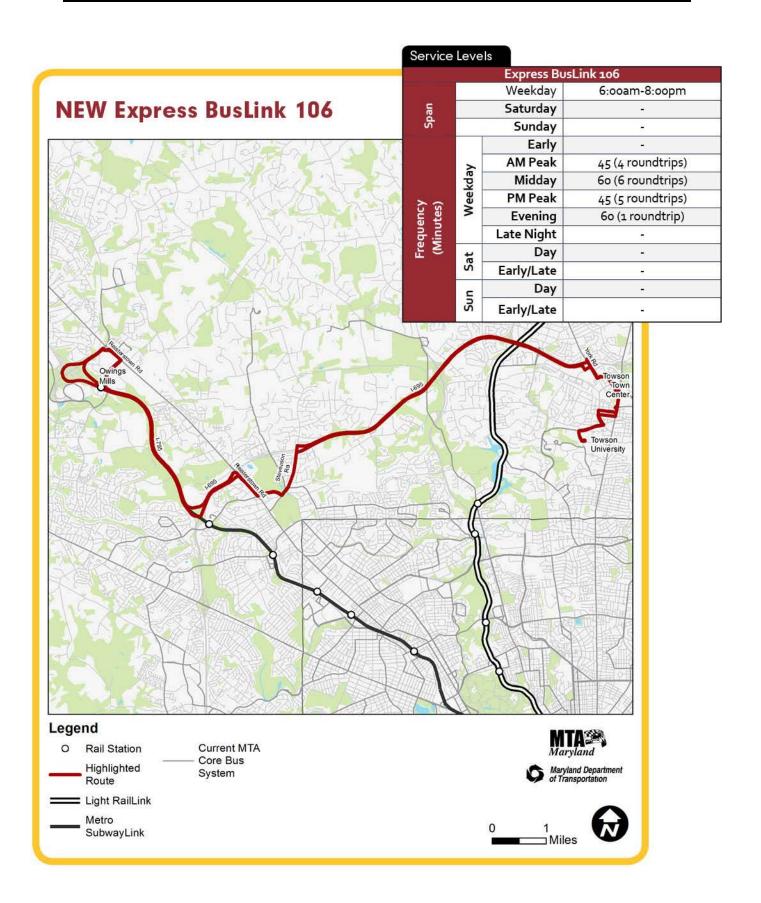
See map of Express BusLink 106 for details.

#### Justification

- This route will provide a new express connection between major job sites in Owings Mills,
   Pikesville, and Towson.
- One-way travel time between Owings Mills and Towson will reduce from 80 minutes to 45 minutes.

#### **Route Alignment**

- Eastbound (towards Towson) depart terminus at the Owings Mills Metro Subway station, travel north on Painters Mill Road, turn left onto Reisterstown Road, left onto Owings Mills Boulevard, and then via southbound I-795 will travel north on I-695 to Reisterstown Road then travel south to serve Pikesville and then turn left onto Old Court Road, left onto Stevenson Road, onto I-695 east to York Road travel south turning left onto Fairmount Avenue, right onto Dulaney Valley Road to serve Towson Town Center, continue south on York Road to serve the Baltimore County Circuit Court via Pennsylvania Avenue, then turn left onto Bosley Avenue, right onto Towsontown Boulevard, and left onto Olser Drive to terminus at Towson University near Union Drive.
- Westbound service will operate similar to the eastbound service in reverse with the exception of traveling via Chesapeake Avenue in Towson to serve the Baltimore County Circuit Court.



# New Express BusLink 107: BWI Airport/Rail Station to Old Court Metro Subway Station

New express service will operate during morning and evening peak services, connecting the BWI Airport and BWI Rail Station to the Old Court Metro Subway station, with stops in the vicinity of Security Square Mall, Catonsville, Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) Catonsville, and University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC).

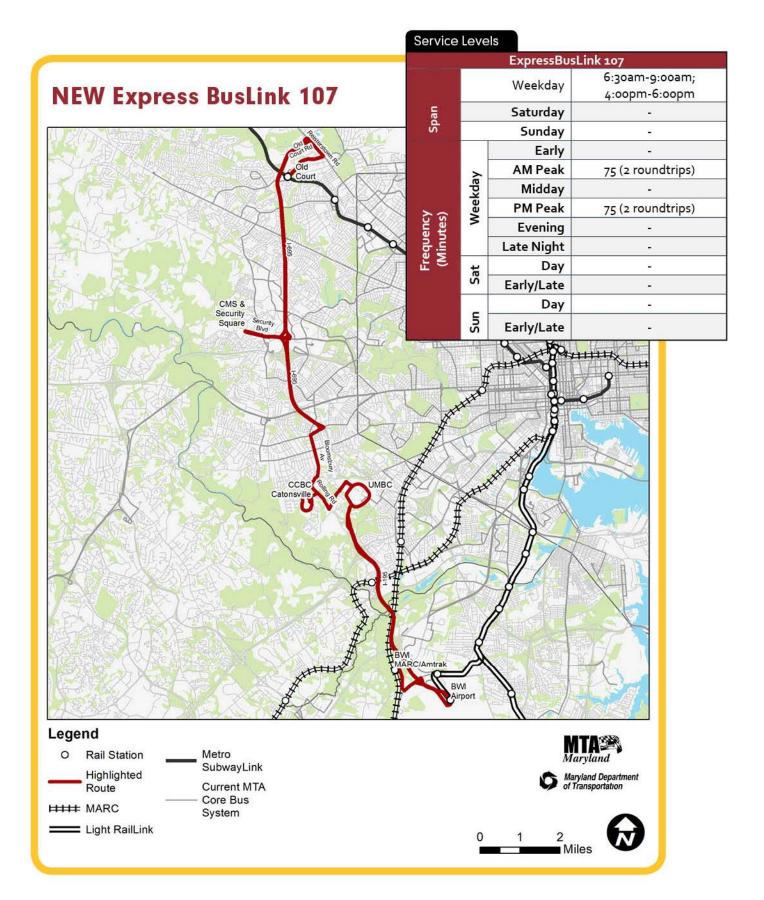
See map of Express BusLink 107 for details.

#### Justification

- This route will provide a quicker connection for riders currently traveling on Local Bus line Nos.
   77 and 99 during morning and evening peak services between the Old Court Metro Subway station, Security Square Mall, Catonsville, UMBC, CCBC Catonsville, BWI Airport and BWI Rail Station.
- The desire for this quicker connection was communicated through the public outreach process for the Bus Network Improvement Project (BNIP).

#### **Route Alignment**

- Northbound (towards Old Court Metro Subway) from the BWI Rail Station, stop at the BWI Airport, then travel northbound on I-195, exit onto UMBC Boulevard and turn left onto Hilltop Circle to serve UMBC, then turn left onto Wilkens Avenue, right onto Rolling Road, serve the CCBC Catonsville campus, then return to Rolling Road, turn right onto Bloomsbury Avenue to Ingleside Avenue and then right onto Edmondson Avenue, to serve Catonsville, then via I-695 to Security Boulevard provide service to Security Square Mall and CMS, then return to I-695 eastbound to Reisterstown Road, travel south, right onto Old Court Road, terminating at the Old Court Metro Subway station.
- Southbound (towards BWI) service will operate similar to the northbound route in reverse.



# Express BusLink 150: Columbia Town Center to Downtown/Harbor East

- Express BusLink 150 will be a modified version of the current Express Bus No. 150 line, providing express service between Columbia Town Center and downtown Baltimore, and extending service to Harbor East.
- Service will be eliminated to the Long Gate Park and Ride and along Edmondson Avenue between Ingleside Avenue and Rolling Road.
- Every trip will provide service to Harbor East.

See map of Express BusLink 150 for details.

#### Justification

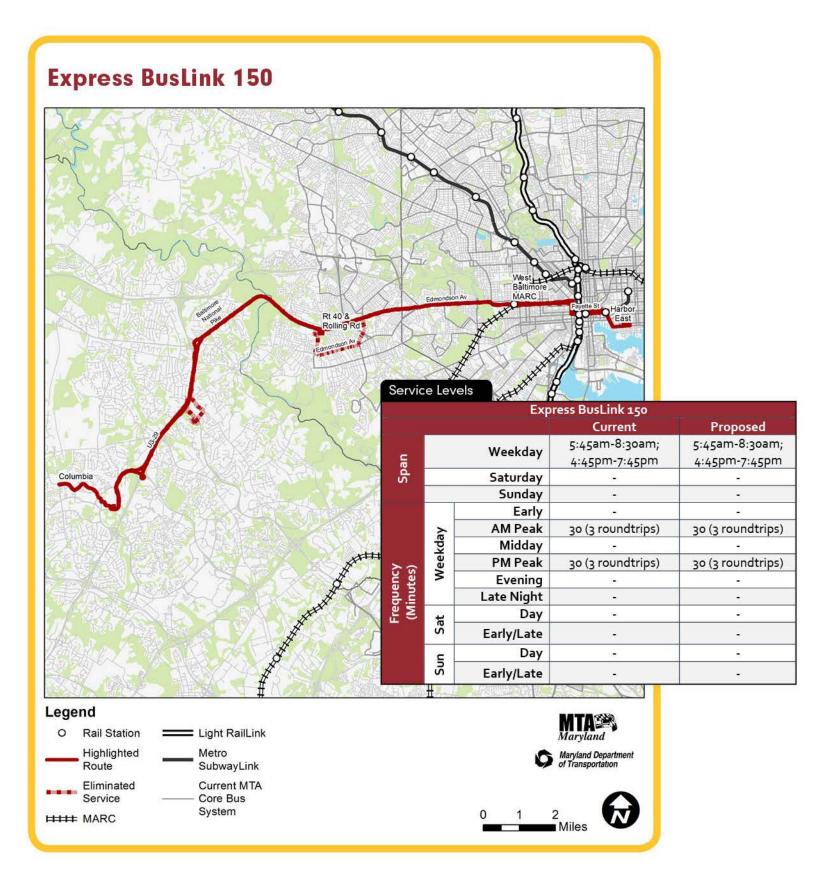
- Due to low ridership, and indirect routing, segments to Long Gate Park and Ride and Edmondson Avenue (between Ingleside Avenue and Rolling Road only) will be removed from this route.
- Service will be extended to Harbor East, a major job destination for Columbia residents.

#### **Route Alignment**

- Eastbound (towards Baltimore)from the terminus at Cedar Lane and Harpers Farm Road, turn left onto Twin Rivers Road to serve the Columbia Town Center, then travel north onto Little Patuxent Parkway, left onto Route 29/Columbia Pike, exit onto Route 40/Baltimore National Pike, serve the current Walmart and Giant bus stop at Rolling Road, then continue east on Route 40 via the current alignment of the Express Bus No. 150 line through Catonsville and West Baltimore to downtown Baltimore, then continue east on Baltimore Street, right onto President Street, left onto Fleet Street terminating at Caroline Street.
- Westbound (towards Columbia) service will operate similar to the eastbound route in reverse, travelling via Fayette Street through downtown Baltimore.

#### **Rider Impact**

- Riders will no longer be able to make a connection at Long Gate Park and Ride.
- Local Bus No. 23 line will continue to serve riders on Edmondson Avenue between Ingleside Avenue and Rolling Road.
- Riders can continue to transfer between the No. 23 line and the new Express BusLink 150 at the Walmart and Giant bus stop on Route 40 at Rolling Road.



# **Current Local Bus No. 77 Line: Old Court Metro Subway Station to Patapsco Light Rail Stop**

Enhance service with additional trips during morning and evening peak services between the Old Court Metro Subway Station and University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC).

See map of Local Bus line Nos.77 and 99 for details.

#### Justification

The enhanced peak services will provide additional service to current Local Bus No. 99 line riders.

## **Route Alignment**

- Route alignment will remain unchanged.
- The additional trips will only operate between Old Court Metro Subway Station and UMBC.

#### **Rider Impact**

• Riders who currently use Local Bus line Nos. 77 and 99 between Old Court Metro Subway Station and UMBC will be served by additional trips.

# **Current No. 99 Line: Old Court Metro Subway Station to BWI Airport**

Eliminate service and replace with new Express BusLink 107, which will align with much of the current Local Bus No. 99 line.

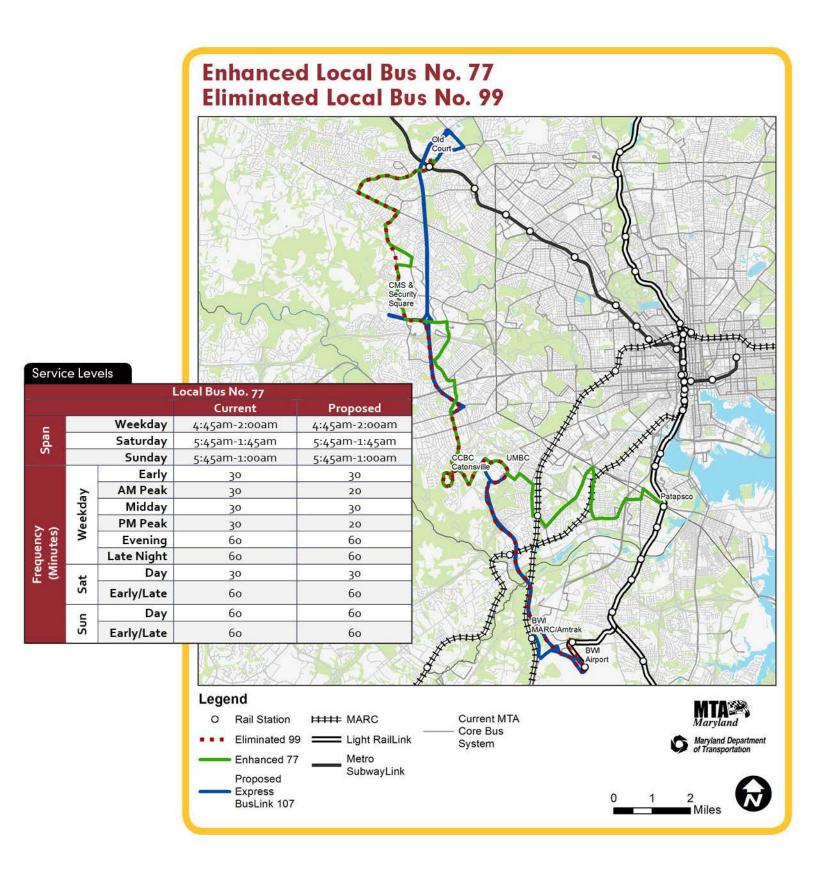
See map of Local Bus line Nos.77 and 99 for details.

#### Justification

- Much of Local Bus No. 99 line duplicates the route of Local Bus No. 77 line and the new Express BusLink 107. Route will be eliminated to reduce rider confusion and to streamline services.
- To provide the same combined level of service as current Local Bus line Nos. 77 and 99, one trip per hour during peak service periods, will be added to the Local Bus No. 77 line.
- The additional peak service trips on Local Bus No.77 line will also supplement Express BusLink 107 between Old Court Metro Subway Station and UMBC.
- Between Security Square Mall and Old Court Metro Subway station, the new Express BusLink 107 will operate via I-695, rather than to follow the Local Bus No. 99 line alignment along Rolling Road, Milford Mill Road, and Liberty Road.

#### **Rider Impact**

- Riders who board Local Bus No. 99 line at bus stops located on Old Court Road, Liberty Road, Milford Mill Road, Rolling Road, Windsor Mill Road, Lord Baltimore Drive or Windsor Boulevard will utilize the enhanced Local Bus No. 77 line.
- Peak service riders who currently board Local Bus No. 99 line at the Old Court Metro Subway
  Station or south of Security Square Mall will be able to utilize the new Express BusLink 107 for a
  quicker trip to Catonsville, Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) Catonsville, UMBC
  and BWI Airport.
- Express BusLink 107 riders will pay the 40 cents surcharge for express service.



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